

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11

FAA-00 DOTE-00 SCA-01 AID-20 SY-10 USSS-00 A-01 RSR-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9063

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

UNCLAS USUN 2879

MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT DIVERSION INCIDENT IN SC

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR SCALI'S SPEECH DELIVERED
IN GENERAL DEBATE ON SUBJECT AUGUST 14:

THE ISSUE BEFORE US TODAY IS CLEAR. IN RECENT YEARS THE WORLD
HAS SEEN THREATS TO THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION INCREASE AT AN
ALARMING RATE. WE MUST FIND WAYS TO REDUCE AND ULTIMATELY
ELIMINATE SUCH THREATS TO THE FREE AND PEACEFUL USE OF
THE WORLD'S AIRWAYS. TRAVEL BY AIR, AS WAS TRAVEL BY SEA
IN AN EARLIER AGE, MUST BE INSULATED AND PROTECTED FROM
UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE. IT MUST NO LONGER BE A PAWN IN
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INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS.

IN THIS LATEST INCIDENT, INFORMATION FROM LEBANESE AND
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAS ESTABLISHED THAT A CIVIL

AIRLINER EN ROUTE FROM BEIRUT TO BAGHDAD WITH 76 PASSENGERS ABOARD WAS INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OVER LEBANESE TERRITORY ON AUGUST 10 AND FORCED TO LAND IN ISRAEL. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT SUCH ACTIONS BY THEIR VERY NATURE PLACE THE LIVES OF THE INNOCENT PERSONS ABOARD AN AIRCRAFT IN DANGER.

THE UNITED STATES DEPLORES THIS VIOLATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY. WE DEPLORE THIS VIOLATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND OF THE RULE OF LAW IN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION.

FORTUNATELY, NO LIVES WERE LOST AND NO MATERIAL DAMAGE WAS INCURRED IN THIS LATEST INCIDENT. WHILE THIS DOES NOT MODIFY OUR CONCERN, WE STRONGLY URGE ALL PARTIES TO RETAIN A SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE AND PREVENT THIS INCIDENT FROM LEADING TO FURTHER REPRISALS AND COUNTER-REPRISALS. IT IS HIGH TIME TO CALL A FULL STOP TO ALL SUCH ACTS AND RELATED ACTS AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN DIVERTING THE AIRLINER WAS TO APPREHEND INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST ACTS. MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SECOND TO NONE IN ITS CONDEMNATION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO COUNTER TERRORISM, AND IN URGING OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE A STRONG STAND AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST THOSE WHO ENDANGER AND TAKE INNOCENT LIVES IN THE NAME OF SERVING A POLITICAL CAUSE. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL TERRORISM MUST GO FORWARD. THEY MUST, HOWEVER, GO FORWARD WITHIN AND NOT OUTSIDE THE LAW. THE COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, IMPOSES CERTAIN RESTRAINTS ON THE METHODS GOVERNMENTS CAN USE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST THOSE WHO OPERATE OUTSIDE THE LAW. MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES ACTIONS SUCH AS ISRAEL'S DIVERSION OF A CIVIL AIRLINER ON AUGUST

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10 ARE UNJUSTIFIED AND LIKELY ONLY TO BRING ABOUT COUNTER-ACTION ON AN INCREASING SCALE. RESORT TO ANY TYPE OF AERIAL KIDNAPPING SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZES THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS MADE STRENUOUS EFFORTS IN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS TO REACH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON MEASURES THAT WOULD PROTECT SUCH "THIRD PARTIES" WHO HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE POLITICAL DISPUTE GIVING RISE TO THE USE OF ARMED FORCE. WE HAVE ALSO MADE STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION THROUGH MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AT THE ICAO MEETINGS WHICH CONVENE IN ROME LATER THIS MONTH. SUCH PRACTICES AS DIVERTING CIVIL AIRCRAFT CONSTITUTE HIGHLY

DANGEROUS PRECEDENTS FOR THE SAFE AND RELIABLE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COMMERCE, AND TRAVEL.

LAST APRIL IN THIS COUNCIL I OBSERVED - THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD IS NOT ONLY CONTINUING BUT HAS TAKEN ON NEWER AND UGLIER DIMENSIONS. TO THE SHAME OF ALL MANKIND, ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR, OFTEN STRIKING DOWN INNOCENT PEOPLE, ARE ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A ROUTINE FOOTNOTE TO THE TRAGIC AND UNRESOLVED ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

UNHAPPILY, EVENTS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS PROVIDE NO EVIDENCE TO CONTRADICT THIS MELANCHOLY CONCLUSION. WE HARDLY NEED REMINDING THAT ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, TWO GUNMEN OPENED FIRE SENSELESSLY IN THE MIDST OF A CROWDED INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINAL IN ATHENS, MURDERING THREE INNOCENT TRAVELERS AND INJURING DOZENS OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS. JUST WEEKS BEFORE THAT, A JAPANESE AIRLINER WAS HIJACKED AND DESTROYED, AND ITS PASSENGERS SUBJECTED TO HARSH THREATS AND EXTREME DANGER. LAST FEBRUARY, 106 PERSONS ON A LIBYAN AIRLINER WERE THE TRAGIC VICTIMS OF THIS SAME PATTERN OF VIOLENCE AND COUNTER VIOLENCE. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT THIS CYCLE IS A REFLECTION OF THE TENSIONS AND HATREDS GROWING OUT OF THE UNRESOLVED ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION LIES IN A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THAT DISPUTE ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. PENDING THIS MUCH DESIRED SOLUTION, HOWEVER, WE ALL HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SEEK TO PREVENT THAT DISPUTE FROM MOVING UP ANOTHER UGLIER NOTCH, UNCLASSIFIED

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TO SEEK TO PREVENT ITS TAKING AN EVEN HIGHER TOLL OF INNOCENT LIVES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY JOINED OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL TO EXPRESS ITS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE THREAT TO INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES RESULTING FROM HIJACKING AND OTHER UNLAWFUL OR UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION. WE WOULD JOIN AGAIN IN URGING ALL STATES, ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ALL POLITICAL GROUPS IN THE AREA TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH COULD IMPERIL THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE AND THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBLE STANDARD HERE. THERE MUST BE ONE LAW FOR ALL.

THE RECORD OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN DEALING WITH THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS NOT SO FAR A RECORD OF WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD. HOWEVER, THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS MEETING TODAY TO DEAL WITH A SPECIFIC COMPLAINT ABOUT A SPECIFIC INCIDENT. IT SHOULD DEAL PROMPTLY WITH THIS COMPLAINT, ON THE BASIS OF THE FACTS WHILE KEEPING IN PERSPECTIVE THE BROADER ISSUES.

OUR TASK NOW IS TO UNITE ON A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE

COMMON ATTITUDE OF THIS WORLD BODY TOWARD THE REGRETTABLE
AND DEPLORABLE INCIDENT UNDER DISCUSSION. LET US DO SO WITH
THE INTENTION THAT THE DECISION WE MAKE WILL MARK A TURNING
POINT -- WHERE MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO PEACE, WITH THEIR
EYES FIXED ON THE FUTURE, AS WELL AS THE PRESENT, DETERMINE
THAT THE FABRIC OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY REQUIRES THAT THEY
REJECT UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION, FROM WHAT-
EVER QUARTER, AND FOR WHATEVER MOTIVE.

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